

Dear Environment Committee:

Please make sure that the proposed bill includes the following wording declares:

Running Bamboo a Nuisance with a 40 foot set back on all existing bamboo. We want a "no bamboo buffer zone" (where bamboo cannot exist including rhizomes) and to stop the spread and damage of such invasive plants.

I have lived in Lyme since 1987 and own property that enjoys 50' frontage on the Connecticut River. My property occupies space within the Wetlands. Whenever I want to cut vegetation or plant native non-invasive species, I still have to appear before the Lyme Wetlands Commission to make sure I have the proper permit for these projects. We are very particular about what is planted (***or not***) in Lyme.

I wish to continue this tradition. Hence, I appeal to you to listen to what is happening to my home at this time.

I have a 20' right-of-way over my neighbor's property from Brockway's Ferry Road to the Connecticut River.

In 2002 my neighbor planted *Phyllostachys Bissetii* (as identified by the field expert Terri Groff on July 27th, 2013) along 160' of this mutual property line. It has now taken over the 20' ROW so densely that a cat can't even walk through it (let alone my right to pass and repass on foot or in a motor vehicle). This bamboo has also marched onto my property and has spread 15' into my parking area and lawn space. The invasion of this bamboo has been the most aggressive in the past two years.

My neighbor offered to "remove" it from my property this past summer. Although I explained that it would be necessary to dig up the roots at the source of the original plant to eradicate it and that he should burn it on the property site, he just dug 9" into the soil on my side of the property line to "get rid of the plant". This has only made the invasion more aggressive (as shoots started appearing in October). This has also severely damaged the value of my property. (As well as the quiet enjoyment thereof.)

The new law that went into effect October 1, 2013 is of no value to those of us who suffer from invasive bamboo that was planted before that date. Whether done naively or spitefully, this plant has no redeeming value and should be stopped immediately. It will only destroy neighborhoods if left unattended and harm neighbor relations and property values as well.

Thank you for your attention,

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